

Safety innovation for North Yorkshire Highways road crews.

Road crews at North Yorkshire Highways (NYH) use wheelbarrows in many everyday tasks from moving aggregates to removing spoil from highways and byways. iTip Safety Handles added to a manual handling device reduces the injuries and long-term damage to colleagues.



Aim Health & Safety

Health & Safety is an area that North Yorkshire Highways (NYH) take very seriously. Whilst attending Health & Safety Expo at the NEC Birmingham, the NYH team experienced new safety technology, iTip® Safety Handles. They could see the benefit in reducing strains and injuries within their road crews. To this end they



invited Safety Handles for a discussion at the vehicle depot. After fitting the technology to two test wheelbarrows NYH have deployed a further 15 sets of iTip Handles across various depots.



The Local Council Roads Innovation Group (LCRIG) at their annual conference Strictly Highways 2022, awarded iTip Safety Handles safety work with NYH a Highly Commended in the *"Best use of Technology in the Highways & Technology sector"*.

Challenges

Road crews at NYH use wheelbarrows in many everyday tasks from moving aggregates to removing spoil from the highway. Automated solutions are not always practical, cost effective or available. The aim is to reduce the chance of injury and strain when using manual handling equipment, within the department.

12,600 workers in the UK report suffering from work-related musculoskeletal disorders (new or long-standing cases, reference the Health & Safety Executive) each year. Back and wrist injuries occur from incorrect use of manual handling equipment. Similarly, wheelbarrows have a specific issue. When tipping the contents out it is necessary to physically let go of the wheelbarrow at the crucial point and catch again in mid-air. Potentially road crews can have hot tar within



www.SafetyHandles.co.uk 0333 800 5000. "Best Invention of the Year"



the wheelbarrows, and this could cause danger to the user or a colleague if a spill occurs.



NYH evaluate iTip Safety Handles to increase safety and reduce issues

By using iTip Safety Handle technology, colleagues never have to let go of the wheelbarrow during operation, even at the tipping point. The design rotates the handle position and always maintains a firm grip. The ergonomic rotations also reduce the chance of MSD strains and injuries. iTip Safety Handles have been independently evaluated by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) of Her Majesty's Government. They report on the use of iTip Safety Handles,

“The measured reductions in the wrist angles when using the sack barrow and wheelbarrow will, in the long term, decrease the risk of musculoskeletal symptoms and disorders developing in the wrist, eliminating taking hands off the wheelbarrow during tipping increases the safety of emptying wheelbarrows.”

Improvements for Health & Safety assessment

iTip Safety Handles as a control measure provides NYH Health & Safety Officers with the ability for accurate and truthful Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS). Previously it was not possible to counter the letting go and catch detail of



www.SafetyHandles.co.uk 0333 800 5000. “Best Invention of the Year”

tipping the wheelbarrow. The introduction of iTip Safety Handles reinforces training and significantly improves the outcome for Health & Safety Executive (HSE) risk assessment related to pushing and pulling (RAPP).



Outcomes

The deployment is very recent, and feedback is being collated. The initial feedback from the first area trialled is that after initially being reticent they now keep the wheelbarrows with iTip Handles on their wagon and they will not let anyone else use them!

“The operators in the depot are fighting to get the barrows fitted with [iTip] handles. The handles are an easy way to show we care about the welfare of our team”

Tariq Anwar North Yorkshire Highways

Vision for the future

The plan is to roll iTip Handles safety across the fleet of wheelbarrow equipment to protect NYH crews and increase Health & Safety levels. Then look at other manual handling tasks within the council. As more successful evidence becomes available, assist other LCRIG members and councils to reap the safety benefits within their organisations.



Background

Safety Handles are a UK invention designed to reduce musculoskeletal symptoms such as backache, when completing manual handling tasks. Although automation has reduced the need for human involvement in many tasks, there are still situations where it is more time and cost effective to use traditional methods.



iTip Safety Handles are designed to reduce manual handling injuries.



ezTip Safety Handles have the same safety properties and are great when a cleaning process is difficult, or a pram style handle is provided on the equipment



The 2Tip combination for lifting a wheelbarrow whilst providing back protection

Sustainability

A key parameter for innovation is to make the product as sustainable as possible. To this end Safety Handles readily breakdown in the correct compostable conditions. They are manufactured in Slough, the UK, to reduce their carbon footprint. The nature of manual handling also reduces the need for carbon producing powered equipment to move loads.

Availability

Safety Handles are currently available from www.SafetyHandles.co.uk . They are supplied individually and in bulk trade packs of various multiples. Please contact us on 0333 800 5000 for an account. The commercial variant is provided in high visibility colours to enhance the safety capability. Individual high visibility commercial sets of iTip or ezTip Handles are available at £25 (+VAT). The 2Tip is available at £50 (+VAT). For exports, please call Paul on 0333 800 5000.

iRoll Safety Handles for roll cages are currently in testing phase. For details contact Hello@SafetyHandles.co.uk or ring 0333 800 5000. For further information visit www.SafetyHandles.co.uk. Safety Handles are an inexpensive control measure designed to improve safety and comfort.

Summary



www.SafetyHandles.co.uk 0333 800 5000. "Best Invention of the Year"



iTip Safety Handles are an inexpensive control measure designed to improve safety and comfort.

"iTip Handles are an easy way to show we care about the welfare of our team"

Ross Bullerwell Managing Director, North Yorkshire Highways

For details contact Hello@SafetyHandles.co.uk ring 0333 800 5000 or visit www.SafetyHandles.co.uk



www.SafetyHandles.co.uk 0333 800 5000. "Best Invention of the Year"